

Honorable Thomas S. Zilly

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA

MULTICARE HEALTH SYSTEM,

Plaintiff,

v.

NATIONAL FIRE & MARINE
INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendant.

C20-5559 TSZ

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties, Plaintiff Multicare Health System (“MHS”) and Defendant National Fire & Marine Insurance Company (“NFM”), hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER - 1
C20-5559 TSZ

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1 2. “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL

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3 “Confidential” material shall include any documents, testimony, or other information that
4 the producing party believes in good faith is entitled to confidential treatment under applicable
5 law, including but not necessarily limited to the following documents and tangible things
6 produced or otherwise exchanged:
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- Documents with patient health information that MHS is obligated to protect under a variety of laws, including but not limited to, the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and Washington’s Uniform Health Care Information Act.
 - Documents that include confidential commercial or competitively sensitive information, including but not limited to trade secrets;
 - Documents containing material that, if unnecessarily disseminated or used for purposes other than this litigation, could prejudice MHS’s interests in the proceedings underlying this insurance coverage action.

25 3. SCOPE

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27 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as
28 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2)
29 all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony,
30 conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.
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34 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in
35 the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.
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37 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

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39 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed
40 or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,
41 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to
42 the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential
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1 material must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner
2 that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.
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4 4.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise
5 ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may
6 disclose any confidential material only to:
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8 (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees
9 of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;
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11 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the
12 receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties
13 agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only and is so
14 designated;
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16 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for
17 this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit
18 A);
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20 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;
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22 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of
23 confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service
24 instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately
25 return all originals and copies of any confidential material;
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27 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
28 reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound"
29 (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of
30 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must
31 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted
32 under this agreement;
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(g) any governmental regulators, auditors, reinsurers, or others for whom the review of a parties' files may be required by law, regulation, treaty, or contract;

(h) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

(i) any other person or entity that the producing party agrees to in writing

4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party, in accordance with LCR 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential information at issue, and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing the information at issue. LCR 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its information must satisfy the requirements of LCR 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the party filing the motion to seal. Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance with the strong presumption of public access to the Court's files.

4.4 Use of Confidential Materials at Trial. The parties shall meet and confer regarding the procedures for use of any Confidential materials at trial and, in the event an agreement is reached by the parties, shall move the Court for entry of an appropriate order. Otherwise, the burden shall be on the designating party to obtain a Court Order requiring special procedures for use of any Confidential materials at trial.

5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take

1 care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate
 2 standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material,
 3 documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the
 4 material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not
 5 swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.
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 9 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are
 10 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to
 11 unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary
 12 expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.
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15 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated
 16 for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other
 17 parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.
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20 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this
 21 agreement (see, *e.g.*, section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, disclosure or
 22 discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must be clearly so
 23 designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.
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26 (a) Information in documentary form: (*e.g.*, paper or electronic documents
 27 and deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
 28 proceedings), the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that
 29 contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for
 30 protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (*e.g.*, by
 31 making appropriate markings in the margins).
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34 (b) Electronic documents / files produced in their native format (*e.g.*, Excel
 35 spreadsheets, Power Point files, etc.): for electronic documents / files produced in native format,
 36 the designating party may insert the word "CONFIDENTIAL" into the name of the document /
 37 file, the metadata fields produced, or affix it to the image slip sheet of the native file rather than
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1 affixing it to each page within the document / file itself. If only a portion of the document / file is
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 3 “CONFIDENTIAL,” a clear explanation shall be provided in writing by the designating party
 4 that specifies what particular aspect(s) of the document / file are designated “CONFIDENTIAL.”
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6 (c) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties
 7 and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other
 8 pretrial proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other
 9 testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after
 10 receiving the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the
 11 transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect
 12 confidential information at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.
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15 (d) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place
 16 on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word
 17 “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection,
 18 the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).
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21 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to
 22 designate qualified physical or electronic documents, information, or other items does not,
 23 standing alone, waive the designating party’s right to secure protection under this agreement for
 24 such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable
 25 efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.
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28 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

29 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of
 30 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party’s confidentiality
 31 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic
 32 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to
 33 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the
 34 original designation is disclosed.
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6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a designation challenge without court intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under LCR 7 (and in compliance with LCR 5(g), if applicable). The burden of persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous designations and/or challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the designating and/or challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the designation challenge.

7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party must:

- (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the subpoena or court order;
- (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

(c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

10. NON-TERMINATION AND RETURN OR DESTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTS

Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all exact copies, and must destroy any non-exact copies, extracts, and/or summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction of confidential material other than non-exact copies, extracts, and/or summaries. The provisions of this Paragraph 10 shall not be binding on any party to the extent that they conflict with applicable Federal or State law or regulations. The Parties shall be entitled to retain any materials provided that contain confidential materials to the

1 extent and for the time required by any applicable regulatory requirements or until any good faith
2 coverage dispute between the Parties is resolved.
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4 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all
5 documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence,
6 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert
7 work product, even if such materials contain confidential material.
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10 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a
11 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.
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13 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.
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15 DATED this 12th day of November, 2020.
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1 DATED this 12th day of November, 2020.
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16 DATED this 12th day of November, 2020.
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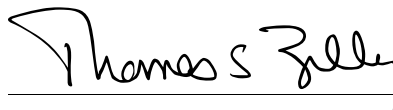
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ORDER

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other privilege or protection recognized by law.

Dated this 13th day of November, 2020



Thomas S. Zilly
United States District Judge

EXHIBIT AACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of
 _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of
 perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was
 issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on [date] in the
 case of *Multicare Health System v. National Fire & Marine Insurance Company*, No. 3:20-cv-
 05559-TSZ. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective
 Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions
 and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner
 any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity
 except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
 Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective
 Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____